Remarks

Claims 1 and 10 have been rejected as being anticipated by Rivera et al, U.S. Patent 6,095,288, while the remaining claims have been rejected as being obvious over the combination of Rivera '288 and secondary references. Responsive to the rejections, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 10 and 14 and added new claims 15 and 16. It is believed that all claims are allowable over the art of record.

With respect to the rejection of claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the support body of the present lift cage is in the form of an inverted U-shaped frame having an open bottom. The open bottom feature is neither taught nor suggested by Rivera '288.

As may be seen in Rivera '288, its "support body" comprises an intermediary frame 16 having both top and bottom horizontal elements (the bottom element being reference 29) and a pair of vertical elements, forming a closed, rectangular construction. While, as the Examiner previously indicated, such a rectangular construction includes an inverted U-shaped portion, the presence of the lower horizontal member 29 completes the construction, and does not yield an inverted U-shape with an open bottom.

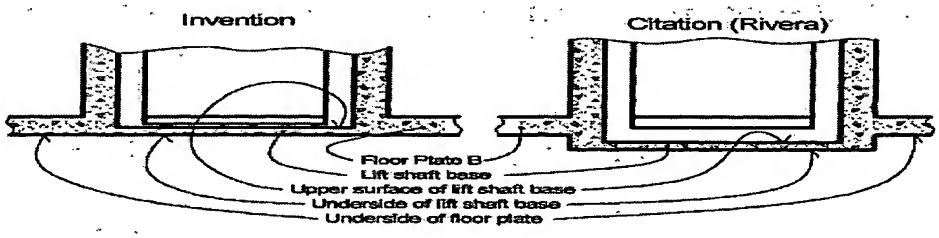
New claim 15 defines the inventive lift cage of the present application as comprising a three-dimensional body and a support body from which the lift cage is suspended. The support body is defined as having two rectangular open side frames at opposed sides of the lift cage. Each of the open side frames is formed from front and rear vertical members joined by upper and lower horizontal members. The side frames are connected together by way of a top frame, the side frames and the top frame together forming an inverted U-shaped construction with an open bottom. The three-dimensional body is suspended from the top frame.

Rivera '288 does not disclose or teach a lift cage having rectangular, open side frames on opposed sides of a three-dimensional (cab) body connected together by way of a top frame to form a construction in which the three-dimensional body 12 is supported. Rather, it has a rear rectangular intermediary frame 16 from which the three-dimensional body 12 cantilevers outwardly. Furthermore, as discussed above, the intermediary frame 16, being rectangular,

does not have an open bottom. There is neither teaching nor suggestion of any kind in Rivera '288 of a support body construction having rectangular open side frames connected together by a top frame for supporting the three-dimensional cage body.

Independent claim 10 is directed to a lift installation, and has been amended to more precisely define the invention. Claim 10 defines a lift installation in which the lift shaft base has a lower surface at the same level as the lower surface of the building floor plate, and having an upper surface at a level which is intermediate between the upper and lower surfaces of the floor plate. Once again, Rivera '288 does not disclose or suggest such a structure.

The following pair of sketches presents the respective lift installation structures, and makes the differences apparent. As may be seen, Rivera '288 presents a construction (taken from Rivera Fig. 4) in which the under or lower side of the lift shaft base extends downwardly below the level of the building floor plate. In addition, the upper surface of the lift shaft base is below both the upper and lower surfaces of the building floor plate. Such a construction is to be contrasted with that of the present invention, in which the lower surface of the building floor plate and the lift shaft are at the same level, with the upper surface of the lift shaft base being at a height between the upper and lower surfaces of the building floor plate. Rivera '288 provides no suggestion whatsoever that its floor plate construction could or should be varied to that of the present invention.



Independent claim 14 is directed to a method of mounting a lift cage in a lift shaft, and has been amended to recite that the top frame of the support body is connected to the side frames to form an inverted U-shaped frame with an open bottom. As discussed above, particularly with respect to claim 1, Rivera '288 does not have an open bottom U-shaped frame construction and thus does not anticipate the method recited of the present claim.

The secondary references cited by the Examiner, Tomasetti et al '686, Halpern GB '183, and Ericson et al '529, all do not teach or suggest either the inverted U-shaped, open bottom construction nor the lift installation floor plate construction disclosed and claimed herein, but have been cited merely with respect to additional elements of the claims. Accordingly, as they fail to cure the basic defects of Rivera '288 with respect to the independent claims, the independent claims, as well as the remaining dependent claims, are patentable over any combination of Rivera with the secondary references.

Withdrawal of all rejections and passage to allowance of all presented claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 18, 2006.

Carol L. Wood _____